

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed January 21, 2004. Claims 1-18 and 37-51 have been allowed. Claims 27, 34, 20-26, 28-33, and 35-36 have been amended. Claim 19 has been canceled. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action of all pending claims in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 1-18 and 37-51 are allowed, and that Claims 27 and 34 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants rewrite Claims 27 and 34 to include all of the limitations of independent Claim 19. Further, dependent Claims 20-26 and 28-33 have been amended to depend from rewritten Claim 27, and dependent Claims 35-36 have been amended to depend from rewritten Claim 34.

The Office Action also offers a statement of reasons why Claims 1, 27, and 34 are considered to recite allowable subject matter. Applicants agree that Claims 1, 27, and 34, along with Claims 2-18 and 37-51, recite allowable subject matter. However, Applicants do not agree with the statement of reasons for allowance to the extent that it attempts to paraphrase the claimed subject matter using terminology and/or language which differs in some respects from the specific terminology and language that was selected for use in Applicants' claims. Applicants believe that the scope and interpretation of the claims should be determined by the terminology and language of the claims themselves, rather than language selected by the PTO to attempt to paraphrase the recited subject matter. Further, Applicants believe that the statement of reasons for allowance should not be interpreted to mean that the Examiner's stated reasons are the only reasons supporting allowance and that there are no other reasons supporting the allowance of various claims. Favorable action is requested.

Section 102 and 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 19-24, 26, 28-33, 35, and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over U.S. Pat. No. 6,614,781 to Elliott ("*Elliott*"), and Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. To advance the prosecution of this case, Claim 19 has been canceled. As suggested by the Examiner, Claims 27 and 34 have been rewritten to include all of the

limitations of independent Claim 19. Dependent Claims 20-26 and 28-33 have been amended to depend from rewritten Claim 27, and dependent Claims 35-36 have been amended to depend from rewritten Claim 34. Thus, the rejections of Claims 19-26, 28-33, 35, and 36 are considered moot. Favorable action is requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for immediate allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other apparent reasons, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that prosecution of the present Application may be advanced in any way by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at 214-953-6447.

Applicants do not believe that any fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge these fees and any extra fee or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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